

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace the first drawing sheet on file, which contains Figs. 1 and 3, with the enclosed replacement drawing sheet.

REMARKS:

Careful consideration has been given to the Official Action of October 12, 2006 and reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Submitted herewith is a replacement drawing sheet containing Figs. 1 and 3 in which the section label "A-A" has been replaced by "III - III" to overcome the Examiner's objection.

To overcome the Examiner's objection to the Specification, the Specification has been amended to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. In view of the number of changes which have been made, submitted herewith is a substitute Specification in order to facilitate the processing of the application. Also submitted herewith is a marked-up copy of the original Specification to show the Examiner the changes which have been made. These changes are fully supported by the original disclosure and no new matter has been introduced.

The Abstract has also been amended to improve clarity.

The Examiner's objection to claim 1 is rendered moot because claim 1 has been canceled.

Claims 2 - 4 have been added and are the claims presented for the Examiner's consideration. Support for the recitation in claim ~~4~~ of an acute angle appears in Figs. 1 and 2.

Claim 1 was rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Blanchard (U.S. 1,548,578).

The claims now presented are clearly distinguished over Blanchard as will be discussed hereafter.

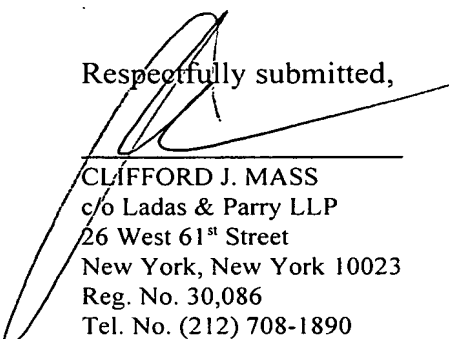
As can be observed clearly from Figs. 1 and 2, Blanchard discloses a reamer having two cutters 31 supported on slides 8. Both slides 8 and the respective cutters 31 are moved between an operating position and a transport position by a single piston 20, which travels along a longitudinal axis of the reamer. As discussed in the opening paragraphs of the present application, such known reamers cannot withstand heavy power loads and often lead to breakage.

In contrast, the present claimed invention is directed to a reamer having a plurality of legs supporting cutters, and each leg is moved by a respective piston. Furthermore, to enhance reliability and serviceability of the reamer, the free-ends of the pistons are placed in inclined bores and are connected to the rod with the possibility of radial movement when moving the legs between the operating position and the transport position. These features are now recited in claim 2, and clearly distinguish the claimed invention from Blancher.

Claims 3-6 are dependent on claim 2, and are directed to various features of the reamer which are also distinguished from Blancher.

In view of the above actions and comments, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as now presented are in allowable condition. Favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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